

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15/228

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Bonz Trick Tank Rebuild

Region and Game Management Unit: Region II; GMU 5B North

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Williams/Flagstaff

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES☒ **NO**☐

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES☐ NO☒

If Yes, was it funded? YES☐ NO☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Water Catchment Rebuild

Brief Project Summary:

Improve the water collection, storage capabilities, and lifespan of the Bonz Wildlife Catchment in northern 5B. This project will involve redeveloping the existing dilapidated catchment with new materials. New r-panel type roofing panels will replace the current metal sheeting at the site. These panels will be fastened to a new metal frame. Four 2500 gallon polyethylene storage tanks will replace the existing steel tank, and a new 4' polyethylene walk in style trough will replace the existing drinker. A metal pipe-rail fence will replace the existing broken barbed wire fence. The redevelopment of this water is necessary to meet AZGFD statewide strategic goals and water development implementation plans all the while mitigating habitat stress occurring near areas of other reliable water sources.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) :

Elk, mule deer, pronghorn and mountain lion

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: July 2016 (If Funded)

Project End Date: July 2018

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes☒ No☐ N/A☐

Projected Completion Date: 6/19/2014

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)

Yes☒ No☐ N/A☐

Projected Completion Date: 8/29/2012

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A☐

To be Completed by: Luke Apfel and Joe Currie

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$

Total Project Costs:

\$32,816.00 (W/out Contractor Labor)

\$64,816.00 (With Contractor Labor)

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Luke Apfel

Address: 3500 S. Lake Mary Road,
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:
LApfel@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-220-5717

Date: 9/1/15

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with: Joe Currie, Steve Rosenstock

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Bonz wildlife catchment is located in 5B north in the lower elevations below Anderson Mesa, about one mile south of Interstate 40 and between the Winona and Twin Arrows exits of I-40. The current wildlife catchment is a steel vault style, with limited storage capacity. The apron is nonfunctional and poorly secured to the ground via metal rods that stretch across the apron. The integrity of the steel vault is questionable as it was placed at the site many years ago. The existing barbed wire fence surrounding the apron and catchment is nonfunctional and needs to be replaced with the pipe railing fence.

The existing state of this catchment does not allow for any wildlife use as it does not collect and hold water. This is unfortunate as the catchment is in a great location that has many elk, mule deer, pronghorn and mountain lion.

Photo of Catchment 2015



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve water availability and distribution for wildlife, in particular elk, mule deer and pronghorn.
2. Improve habitat use and distribution of wildlife species by providing an additional reliable water source in the area.
3. Decrease maintenance needs by increasing capacity, and removing mechanical components from system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

1. Install a 4 polyethylene water tanks with the total capacity of approximately 10000 gallons.
2. Construct a 24' x 96' r-panel metal apron over tank, attached to metal framework.
3. Install a 4' polyethylene walk in trough to replace the existing ground level drinker.
4. Replace existing plumbing components.
5. Replace barbed wire fence with 140'X160' heavy duty pipe-rail fence.

PROJECT LOCATION

Bonz (649) N 35.16901, W 111.36243



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(If the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- 100% Federally managed by the Flagstaff Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Plant community representative of Pinyon Juniper woodland. Vegetative species include Utah juniper cliffrose, algerita, and various grass species.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET

2015-Bonz (649) WLC Redevelopment

Cost Category- Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material	Grant Dollars Requested- Special Tag
24X96' r-panel apron package- Includes r-panel roofing, metal studs, gutter and associated hardware (concrete, support steel, ect...)	\$7,715.00
4 polyethylene water storage tanks. 2500 gallons each.	\$13,944.00 (3,486.00 Each)
4' polyethylene Walk-in trough	\$4,690.00
Plumbing Materials	\$1,500.00
140' X 160' Heavy duty pipe rail fence	\$2,718.00
Elk Exclosure for Apron (30'X100')	\$1,944.00
Trail camera- including camera, locks, safe box, SD card, tree mount, batteries, tax and S&H.	\$305.00
Contractor Labor (If Necessary)	\$32,000.00
Totals	\$32,816.00 (W/out Contractor Labor) \$64,816.00 (With Contractor Labor)

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES☒ NO☐ N/A☐

History has shown that during travel management planning of the land management agencies, roads that have historic use and provide access to wildlife facilities receive priority in remaining open to the public.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

After completion of this project, the wildlife catchment will continue to be monitored by the district Wildlife Manager or designated volunteers. It is anticipated that this wildlife catchment will be inspected at least twice a year and maintenance will be completed to ensure this catchment provides a reliable water source year round.

A trail camera would be set up on the wildlife catchment which would allow the district wildlife manager to remotely monitor the different wildlife species using the water source, what time of year each species is using the water source along with the frequency of their visits. This information could be useful in monitoring wildlife distribution and usage during different times of the year.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

This project will be maintained by the Arizona Game and Fish Department's development crew. As outlined in the project narrative, long term maintenance needs are expected to be minimal. All maintenance and access needs will be closely coordinated with the Flagstaff Ranger District USFS office.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Luke Apfel- 5B Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

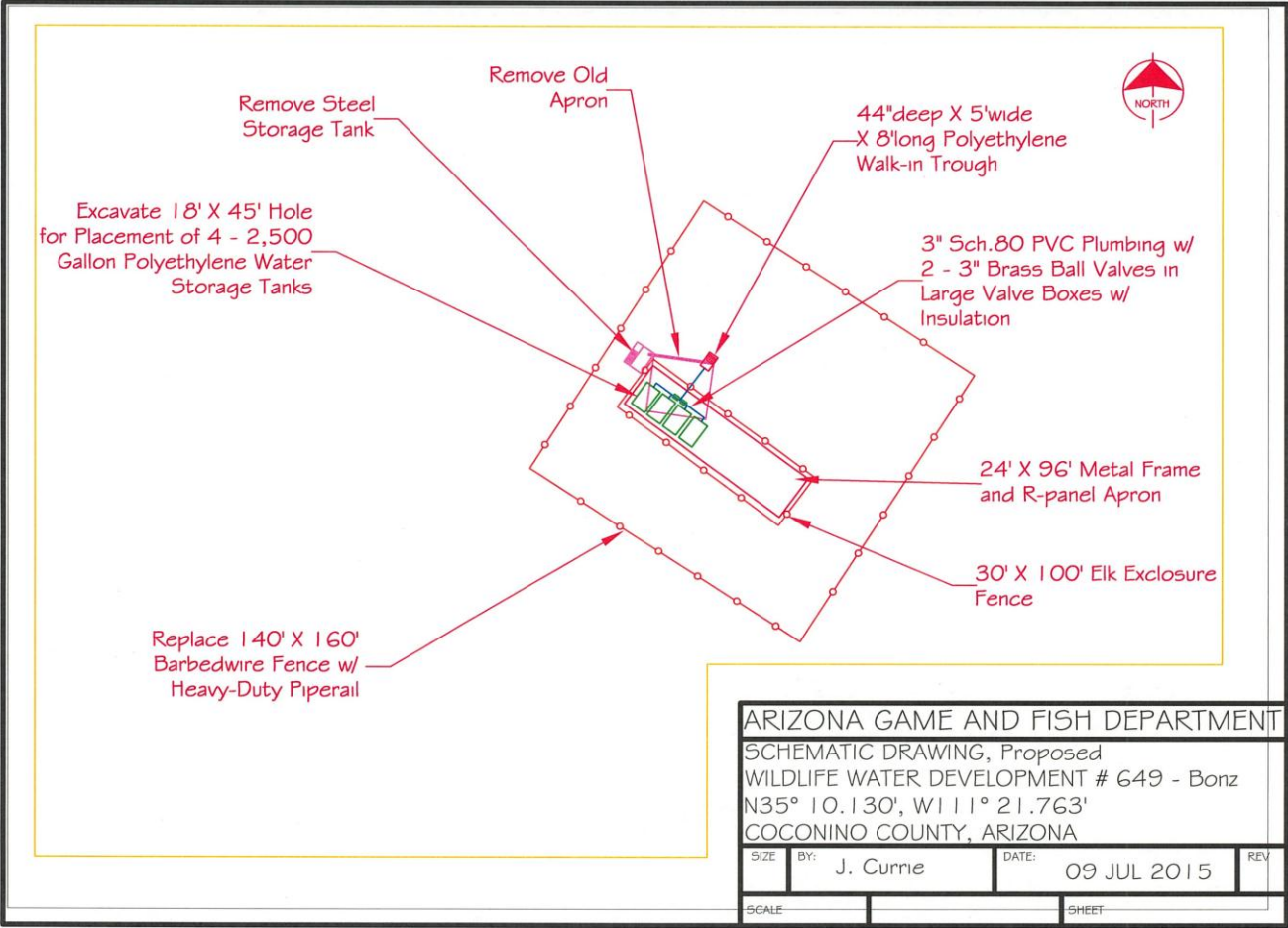
TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below): N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)

USDA FOREST SERVICE		REPORT NO.: 2012-27A Coconino National Forest	
INVENTORY STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTING (Reference: FSM 2361)			
1. REPORT NUMBER: YEAR FOREST NUMBER SERIES 2012 04 27 A		2. REPORT DATE: MONTH DAY YEAR 8 29 2012	
		3. ROUTING: Copies to <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D-: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCH: Site Files: GIS:	
4. AUTHOR(S): A. Peters, April		B. GIS Sites and Survey stored at:	
5. PROJECT NAME/REPORT TITLE (Abbreviate if necessary): An Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resource Clearance Report for the Game and Fish Water Catchments Repair and Installation			
6. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY of report and findings: The Arizona Department of Game and Fish proposes to repair eight existing water catchments and install an additional two water catchments on the Coconino National Forest with the intention to use existing roads for access. Forest Service archaeologists April Peters and Lexi Stine surveyed the existing catchments and the area of the proposed catchments to identify cultural resources. The project is located in dispersed locations around the Coconino National Forest. Archaeologists surveyed 26 acres and found no new sites, no isolated occurrences and no historic properties. There was no previous survey done on any of the water catchment locations so all of the survey is new survey. This project results in No Effect to historic properties.			
Continued on Page			
7. CONSULTATION/CLEARANCE A. CONDITIONS OF CLEARANCE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE (No poten. eligible sites in project area) <input type="checkbox"/> AVOID sites specified below <input type="checkbox"/> MONITOR sites specified below (during all timber removal activities) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT new sites to Forest Archaeologist <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: B. ADDITIONAL FIELD WORK REQUIRED: <input type="checkbox"/> EVALUATE SITES SPECIFIED BELOW: Continued: <input type="checkbox"/> -> -> C. REPORT ACCEPTED: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO D. CLEARANCE RECOMMENDED: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>[Signature]</i> FOREST ARCHAEOLOGIST <i>9/20/12</i> DATE			
E. EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Effect <input type="checkbox"/> No Adverse <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial			
F. TRANSMITTAL TO SHPO: Consultation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Info Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, as per SHPO letter of Dec. 23, 2003 <i>[Signature]</i> FOREST SUPERVISOR <i>Sept 21 2012</i> DATE			
G. SHPO CONCURRENCE: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> YES, per comment below <input type="checkbox"/> NO Comments: (<input type="checkbox"/> Additional comments attached) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case by case concurrence not required as per Programmatic Agreement and/or SHPO letter of Dec. 23, 2003 SHPO DATE			
H. CLEARANCE APPROVED: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>[Signature]</i> FOREST SUPERVISOR <i>Sept 25, 2012</i> DATE			
Previous edition is obsolete (rev: May 3, 1999) (OVER) R3-FS-2300-4a (Interim)			

<p>8. RANGER DISTRICT: 2,3,5,7</p> <p>9. PROJECT FUNCTION: 26</p> <p>10. PRIMARY ACTIVITY TYPE: G</p> <p>11. SECONDARY ACTIVITY TYPE:</p> <p>12. PROGRAMING: U</p> <p>13. TOTAL PROJECT ACREAGE: 26 (Round to nearest 1/10th Acre)</p> <p>14. ACREAGE NEWLY SURVEYED: 26</p> <p>15. SAMPLE _____ %</p> <p>16. ACREAGE RESURVEYED:</p> <p>ACREAGE PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED 0</p> <p>17. TOTAL NO. SITES IN PROJECT AREA 0</p> <p>18. NEW SITES 0</p> <p>19. SITES EVAL. ELIG.: 0</p> <p>20. SITES EVAL. NOT ELIG.: 0</p> <p>Site No's: (By Professional CRM Specialist. Request Formal SHPO Concurrence)</p> <p>21. SITES INSPECTED, MONITORED, ENHANCED, ETC.: 0 (Projects other than survey, evaluation)</p> <p>Site No's:</p> <p>22. RECOMMENDED DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: 1 Initial: () (By USFS Professional CRM Specialist)</p> <p>1. No Effect / No potential to Effect</p> <p>2. No Adverse Effect</p> <p>3. Adverse Effect</p> <p>4. Not Applicable: Not an Undertaking</p> <p>5. Beneficial Effect</p> <p>6. Not Applicable: No Cultural Resources Present</p>	<p>23. PROJECT LOCATION: (Optional)</p> <p>T. N. R. E. Sec. T. N. R. E. Sec. T. N. R. E. Sec. T. N. R. E. Sec.</p> <p>24. INSTITUTION CONDUCT. PROJ./SURVEY: FA Name of institution Coconino National Forest</p> <p>25. AVERAGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS USED: 2</p> <p>26. AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL/ TRANSECT SPACING: (Feet) 32 (Round to nearest whole hour)</p> <p>27. FIELD HOURS: 48</p> <p>28. LAB HOURS:</p> <p>29. TRAVEL HOURS: 4</p> <p>30. ADMIN. HOURS: (RD: 8 SO: 2)</p> <p>31. MILEAGE:</p> <p>32. PER DIEM RATE:</p> <p>33. DAYS OF PER DIEM:</p> <p>34. COST WEIGHT FACTOR:</p> <p>35. COST (CODE):</p> <p>36. ACTUAL COST \$ 1,011</p> <p>Cost/Acre \$ 41.42</p> <p>Value of Volunteer Work: \$ (Figured at \$ /hr x hrs)</p>
<p>37. REMARKS/CONTINUATION: Continued from Section 6: ABSTRACT/SUMMARY of report findings:</p>	





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Flagstaff
Ranger
District

5075 North Highway 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2852
Phone (928) 526-0866
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DECISION MEMO

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (AZGFD) WATER CATCHMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

U.S. FOREST SERVICE COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this project is to support and enhance wildlife populations by restoring a consistent water source for them. There is a need for the Coconino National Forest to rebuild 8 existing water catchments that are not currently functional and are unable to hold water in their current condition. The Coconino National Forest has been working in coordination with the AZGFD to identify areas that lack consistent water sources for wildlife and have potential infrastructure that can be reconstructed to meet the project purpose. Currently the AZGFD hauls water multiple times a year to these tanks to prevent them from going dry, therefore this project will not only improve the consistency of water for wildlife, it will reduce costs for wildlife managers. The Forest has prepared the environmental analysis for the project, and the AZGFD will manage the renovations of the catchments.

Five of the tanks are located north of the San Francisco Peaks between Red Mountain on the west and the forest boundary east of O'Leary Peak. The remaining 3 are located on the eastern boundary of the Forest, south of I-40 near Elliot Canyon and between Twin Arrows and Townsend/Winona exits.

Past research by the Arizona Game and Fish Department has indicated that dependable water sources are needed in key areas every 2 – 2.5 miles for both game and non-game species in Arizona. Notable species that will utilize these waters include elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and numerous small mammals and migratory birds. Other consistent waters from these proposed locations range in distance from 3.5 miles to 1.5 miles away. The AZGFD is planning to complete renovations of these water catchments including all or some of the following: removal or repair of the existing structures and replacement with new storage tanks, installation and repair of water collection aprons, and fencing of the immediate areas to protect them from trampling.

DECISION

I have decided to approve the AZGFD Water Catchment Reconstruction Project that authorizes the renovations of eight water catchments because it will improve the consistency of water availability for wildlife and reduce costs for wildlife managers. This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as "wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction" [36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)]. This category of action(s) is applicable because the project will restore consistent water sources for wildlife, thus improving their habitat.



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This decision also includes the issuance of a special use permit that would authorize reconstruction, operation, road access, and maintenance for each of the catchments as needed. The Coconino National Forest "agrees... to coordinate development and issuance of free special-use permits for the construction and maintenance of structures needed to facilitate fish and wildlife management activities of the [AZGF] Department within the National Forests; provided such structures and intended uses conform in character and location with law, regulation and policy... The [AZGF] Department agrees... [to] build or maintain new and existing structures permitted for wildlife management in a manner that minimizes the visual impacts on the landscape" (USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region & Arizona Game & Fish Commission and Department. 2010. Master Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwestern Region and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department).

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that will preclude use of the category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) or warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- The degree of effect to Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species is not a concern because there will be no effect to those species.
- No flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are present or there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant.
- No congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas are present, and there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant.
- No inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas are present and there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant.
- No research natural areas are present and there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant.
- No American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites are present or there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant. A cultural resource survey and State Historic Preservation Office concurrence. Tribal consultation was conducted. All existing and proposed catchments were surveyed for cultural resource sites in July of 2012. No sites were identified within or adjacent to the project locations.
- No archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas are present or there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant. A cultural resource survey and State Historic Preservation Office concurrence was completed. Tribal consultation was conducted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (APPEAL) OPPORTUNITIES

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Coconino National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions and updated periodically during the analysis. Information about the proposed action was disseminated through mailings on 29 January 2014 and a legal notice was published in the Arizona Daily Sun on 15 February 2014. The following organizations expressed interest in the proposed action: Hopi Tribe, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, Arizona Elk Society, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Rummel Construction, Inc.

The Forest initiated notice, comment, and appeal procedures as required under 36 CFR 215, but statutes within the Consolidated Appropriations Act and Farm Bill of 2014 changed this legislation to be



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no longer applicable to categorically excluded projects effective 5 March 2014. Those organizations listed in the public involvement section above that provided comment or expressed interest in this proposal during the comment period were notified of the change in these procedures through mailings and their comments were accepted and considered.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Coconino National Forest Plan. The project was designed in conformance with land management plan direction relevant to project activities. The project was also found to be consistent with the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Act, and other applicable state and Federal wildlife laws and regulations. The analysis determined that there would be no effect to listed species or their habitats. The Forest Service made a determination that this proposal falls within a category of actions listed in regulations at 36 CFR 220.6, that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and that there are no extraordinary circumstances that will preclude use of the category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) which specifically covers "wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction."

IMPLEMENTATION & CONTACT

Implementation could begin immediately following the release of this decision memo and would be completed before the end of the year 2024. For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Cary Thompson, Wildlife Biologist, Flagstaff Ranger District, 5075 North Highway 89, Flagstaff AZ 86004, 928-527-8237, clthompson@fs.fed.us, or Larry Phoenix, Arizona Game and Fish Department, at lphoenix@azgfd.gov.


Jennifer Hensiek


Date

Deputy District Ranger
Flagstaff Ranger District

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ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT TITLE: Bonz (649) Water Catchment Redevelopment

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
Yes, this project is a regional and local priority for redevelopment.
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Joe Currie- 7/13/2015
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☐8-10 ☐10-12 ☒12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO☐ (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: Rabbit (4002) WLC
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Catchment
Ownership of water source: AZGFD
Distance in miles from project: 2.0
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES☐ NO☒
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
None
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☒2x4 vehicles ☐4x4 only ☐foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES☐ NO☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: None

- 9) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.

24X96' r-panel apron package and steel frame
4 Polyethylene water storage tanks. 2500 gallons each.
4' Polyethylene walk-in trough
Plumbing Materials
140' X 160' Heavy duty pipe rail fence
Elk Exclosure for Apron (30'X100')

- 10) Was a site visit completed? Yes[] No[X]

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

A formal site visit with the Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association and development branch is pending, however development branch has been consulted with on this project and the Wildlife Manager for GMU 5B has visited the site.

